GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3598
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2002
SEA PIRACY AND ROBBERIES
AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER;ANANTA NAYAK;CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH;VIRENDRA KUMAR

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing sea piracy and robberies in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to prevent the sea piracy and robberies;

(c) whether there is a need to strengthen maritime patrolling in view of the increasing activities of the subversive elements in the seaways;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether Indo-Japan cooperation has been established to strengthen marine security in the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the other steps are being taken to fight sea piracy and robberies?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (g): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3598 12.12.2002

Following measures have been instituted for the prevention of sea piracy and robberies:-

(i) Random patrolling by Coast Guard in the areas prone to piracy/robbery incidents.

(ii) Close liaison is maintained with the International Maritime Bureau for exchange of information.

(iii) A toll free common telephone No. 1718 is available at all the Coast Guard operation centres for reporting of such incidents.

(iv) Patrolling of anchorages of Indian ports in coordination with the coastal port authorities.

(v) Port Trusts have been impressed upon to keep a radio watch and advise the merchant ships at anchorages to maintain anti-piracy watch and report the incidents to the Coast Guard.

(vi) Operation centres of Coast Guard are manned 24 hours for taking immediate action on any incident reported.

The Coast Guard has made a thorough assessment of the overall security scenario and has formulated a plan which includes measures to increase surveillance in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

The Coast Guard is in the process of institutionalising a Position Reporting System named INDSAR for all ships, including foreigr ships wherein the ships will be required to give their position as soon as they enter the Indian Search and Rescue Region.

Joint exercises have been institutionalised between Japanese Coast Guard and Indian Coast Guard.The third Indo-Japan Coast

Guard joint exercise was conducted at Chennai from 06-10 November 2002.